

Item ID Number 05461

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Report/Article Title Letter: From Alvin L. Young, Senior Policy Analyst for Life Sciences, Office of Science and Technology Policy, to Lisbeth Hammer, Senior Editor, CRC Critical Review Journals, regarding dioxin article, dated February 28, 1984

Journal/Book Title

Year 1984

Month/Day February 28

Color ☐

Number of Images 2

Description Notes

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

February 28, 1984

Dear Ms. Hammer:

Please forgive my tardiness in response to the submission of a manuscript (Article No. 170072, Current Assessment of the Health Effects of the Chlorinated Dioxins). I have encountered an unusual situation in regards to the submission of the manuscript, one that I had not anticipated and have consequently had to seek counsel from the Justice Department.

When I consented to prepare a manuscript on health effects of dioxins, it was because my position with the Veterans Administration was one of directing the human research programs involving veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange and its associated dioxin while in service in Vietnam. I also had access to an extensive Agent Orange and dioxin library that I had donated to the VA in 1982. Thus the preparation of a current article was both appropriate and possible. At the time I initiated the effort on the article, litigation activity on Agent Orange and the Vietnam veterans was beginning, but the United States Government was not party to the litigation.

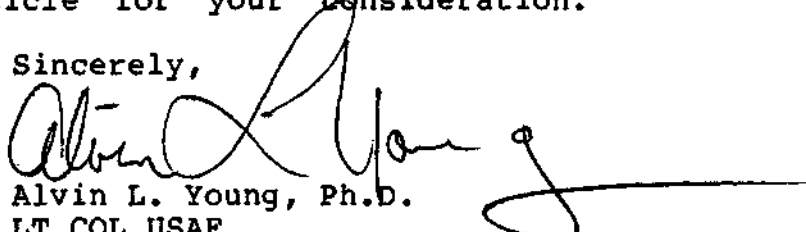
Because of the scientific studies released in September and October, I requested a delay in submission of the article. As I completed the work on the article, I was invited to join the Executive Office of the President as a Senior Policy Analyst in Life Sciences. Effective January 1, 1984 I have assumed the new post. Simultaneously, the litigation action involving Agent Orange became more intense. In early January the Government became a party to the litigation and I have been named by the defendant's as a witness to be provided by the Government for the trial. I contacted the Justice Department requesting a ruling on submitting the manuscript to CRC.

Last week the Justice Department recommended that I not submit the article. Although I did the writing on off duty hours and it was typed at my expense, the appearance of a copy righted article in CRC publication at the time of the trial (Jun 84) may be viewed by the plaintiffs as a "conflict of interest" regardless of the article's content.

I apologize to CRC and your editorial staff for the inconvenience and disruption of scheduling commitments. I know that the public needs a timely article on dioxin and human health, but I had never anticipated the turn of events in my attempting to contribute such an article.

Perhaps when the trial issue is resolved this summer, you would permit me to submit the article for your consideration.

Sincerely,


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